

## Year's Academic and Athletic Highlights

The ACC Academic Collaboration among Atlantic Coast Conference Universities (ACCAC) celebrated its tenth year of initiatives, with full participation by BC students. The ACCAC makes available each year grants to read, study, and conduct research programs, as well as graduate programs to support ACC graduates from one ACC school who wish to conduct research. The tenth annual "Meeting of the Minds" conference, designed to showcase graduate research at member institutions, was held at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, on November 12, 2015. The Student Leadership Symposium, which brings together teams of five to ten student leaders from each ACC university to discuss specific social topics, was held this year at the University of Notre Dame, February 27 – March 1. This year's theme was "Inspiring Leadership, Creating Community, Launching Leaders." Other ACCAC activities this past year included a student Debate Championship, held at Wake Forest University, April 10-12, 2015, a student Federal Relations trip to Washington, D.C., and the passing of history by Robin Pledger, ACC's first female coach, as she was inducted into the ACC's first hall of fame.

### B. Academic Achievements of Individual BC Student-Athletes

Several BC student-athletes were recognized this year for their academic and athletic achievements and their potential for future graduate study. Alicia McKean (Rowing), Mikaela Rix (Soccer) and Michael Sit (Men's Ice Hockey) were awarded ACC Postgraduate Scholarships for distinguished achievement in academics, athletics and community service. They were honored at the annual ACC Scholarship Banquet.

### **C. NCAA Measures of Student-Athlete Academic Progress**

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) continues to use two measures of academic achievement as part of its Academic Performance Program (APP). These are the Academic Progress Rate (APR) and the Graduation Success Rate (GSR), and they are applied at each NCAA Division I member school for all student-athletes who receive athletically-related financial aid.

The APR looks at the eligibility, retention and graduation of all athletically-aided student-

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developments for BC's future support of its athletics program. The group then talked about possible future meeting topics and guests for the 2014 – 15 year.

Our November meeting

The meeting concluded with a discussion of the role of BC's athletic program in the larger University. Brad said he thought that BC could serve as a role model for the effective integration of high-level athletics within a top-tier academic program. To maintain credibility in this role, he said that it would be necessary to demonstrate a certain level of success not only academically but in athletics as well. He also asked the group for suggestions on better promoting a partnership between athletics and academics at BC. Some suggestions were the inclusion of athletics program staff in the activities of Intersections and the Office of Student Formation, naming faculty advisors for each varsity team and recognizing faculty awards and honors during athletic contests, either in person or on the video boards.

The AAB held its annual review of practice and competition schedules for all varsity teams at the February meeting. Prior to this meeting, AAB members identify those class time blocks (e.g., Monday-Wednesday-Friday at 8, 9, 10 and 11 AM or 12, 1, 2, 3, and 4 PM or Tuesday-Thursday at 9 and 10:30 AM and 12, 1:30, 3 and 4:30 PM) that a given team's practice



